

Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge

Narrative Report

September, October, November and December 1942

United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Dunn Center, North Dakota

Submitted by Chesley M. Dinkins
Laborer--Patrolman

Lake Ilo

I. GENERAL

- A. Weather Conditions. Weather conditions have been excellent with higher temperatures than prevailed during this period last year. Rainfall was more than normal in September with very little snow in October, November and December.

	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
September	3.2"	2.58	95	14
October	2.2	.52	85	5
November	1		60	1
December	5		47	-17
	<u>11.4</u>	<u>3.21</u>	<u>Extremes 95</u>	<u>-17</u>

- B. Water Conditions. On September 1 the water level was .9' below spillway crest and the lake froze over the first part of November. The water level at this date was 1' below spillway crest. The ice on Lake Ilo is 20 inches thick at present.

Water Birds. The writer estimates that there were 8,000 ducks on the area the first part of September, mallards, gadwall, pintail, teal, shoveller and scaup. As the migration started there number increased to 12,000 on September 27 and on October 24 there were 20,000 ducks on the area, 90% of these were mallards and the other 10% were pintail, scaup, redhead and canvasback. During November there were approximately 10,000 ducks on the area mostly mallard with a few pintail and scaup. During December there were two to three thousand mallard on the area. They keep a small area open near the center of the lake.

On September 22, 73 white-fronted geese were observed on the area, and October 11 550 white-fronted geese were observed on the area. These geese stayed until the first part of November. A few small flock of Canada geese were observed on the area during October and the first part of November.

Upland Birds. The writer estimates that there are 200 pheasants, 100 hungarian partridge and 45 sharp-tail grouse on the area the present time.

Fur bearing animals. There are more muskrats on the area than in previous years but there population is very small for the size of the area. The few present inhabit the creek channels and the marsh area that is fenced. Nine large houses were observed in the marsh area compared with two last year.

Mink. Some signs of mink have been observed on the area, one has been trapped and it is intended that more will be trapped during the trapping season.

Skunk. Some signs of skunk have been observed on the area but they are not as numerous as last year. 25 were trapped on the area last year. It is intended that some skunk will be trapped this winter.

Coyotes. A few coyotes have been observed on the area but no traps have been set for them. There is a Government trapper, trapping in Dunn County.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Maintained refuge roads, buildings and equipment. Made a trip to Des Lacs refuge and assisted there for ten days repairing No. 3 dam on that area, and brought back a load of fencing material and other materials to be used at Lake Ilo refuge. Razed old foundation under boat house and rebuilt boathouse in to a portable type putting timbers under it for a foundation. Removed bouys that were used for marking off fishing area. Excavated dirt for pump pit (size 6' x 7' x 8') at headquarters adjacent to the cabin basement. Built concrete pump pit adjacent to the cabin basement. Installed water pressure system and sewer system in the Lake Ilo cabin. Installed bathroom fixtures and kitchen sink and piped hot and cold water to all of these fixtures. Installed hot water system which was connected to furnace. Retared expansion joints at spillway, these expansion joints amounted to approximately 200 lineal feet.

Hunting. The hunting was very good in this area. The best upland bird hunting in many years. There were plenty of ducks but very few were killed due to nice weather and they did not go out to feed until after hunting hours and before hunting hours.

There were 16 geese killed in this vicinity and I think all of these geese were white-fronted geese.

Other easement refuges. Lake Patricia, Lake Charles, Stewart Lake, White Lake, Lake Susie, Leghorn Lake, Hiddenwood Lake, Pretty Rock Lake and Lake Oliver were not visited during this period. The structures were in good condition when last visited and it is probable that the water conditions is above normal do to the large amount of rainfall this year.

Submitted by Chesley M. Dinkins
Laborer--Patrolman

Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge

Narrative Report

May, June, July and August 1942

United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Dunn Center, North Dakota

Submitted by Chesley M. Dinkins
Laborer-Patrolman

I. General

A. Weather Conditions: Weather conditions have been excellent with somewhat lower temperatures than prevailed during this period last year. Rainfall has been abundant and all areas are in fine condition from a standpoint of water.

1942	Month	Pre.	Max.	Min.
	May	1.81	82	25
	June	5.24	79	33
	July	1.38	95	40
	August	2.27	100	34

B. Water Conditions: On May 1 water was flowing over the spillway at Lake Ilo and continued throughout the month, and through most of June, reaching a depth of 6" above the crest of the spillway on June 6th and subsiding until it stopped flowing entirely the latter part of June. On August the water level was .9' below the spillway crest.

Water birds: It is estimated that 5000 ducks were raised on the Refuge this season. On August there are approximately 7000 birds using the area.

Upland birds: Numerous broods of Pheasants, and grouse have been observed on the area with a few broods of partridge making their appearance. The cover is excellent.

II. Maintenance: Maintained and repaired refuge roads, and fences. Salvaged 52' of two inch pipe, made two trips to Des Lacs to secure fencing materials. Painted and installed buoys for segregating the area opened for fishing. Removed boathouse from foundation, straightened it and repaired it. Repainted garage and toilet, and built a small bin in the storage building.

LAKE PATRICIA

Water: Five feet below the crest of spillway.

Food: Sagopondweed very prominent.

Wildlife: Approximately 500 ducks 'adults' and thirty broods were using the lake. Several broods of pheasants were seen.

Maintenance: Signs were checked and repaired, fence around dam was repaired. The structures were in good condition.

LAKE CHARLES

Water: Below spillway crest 8".

Wildlife: Two broods of shovellers and three broods of blue wing teal were observed.

Maintenance: Checked and repaired signs, put gopher poison in trays on the dam. Structures in fair condition except east wing wall on dam.

STEWART LAKE ✓

Water: One foot below spillway crest.

Wildlife: Forty broods of young ducks, 300 adult pintail, 75 mallard, 13 coots, 7 great blue heron, 1 sage hen, and two broods of sharptail grouse were observed. Very few shore birds were evident.

Maintenance: Repaired fence around dam, checked and repaired signs removed recognition sign and took it in to Lake Ilo for the purpose of rebuilding.

WHITE LAKE ✓

Water: Six inches below crest of spillway.

Wildlife: Approximately 200 adult ducks and 11 broods were observed.

Maintenance: Checked and repaired fence, and refuge markers. Removed recognition sign for the purpose of rebuilding.

LAKE SUSIE ✓ *mcLean*

Water: Ten inches below spillway crest.

Wildlife: 75 pintail and 26 broods of young were observed, few shorebirds

Maintenance: Signs were checked and repaired, and gopher bait placed in trays on the dam.

LEGION LAKE ✓

Water: 8" below spillway crest.

Wildlife: 13 broods of young, and approximately 400 adult pintail and mallard were observed.

Maintenance: Put gopher bait in trays on the dam. Repaired signs.

HIDDENWOOD LAKE ✓

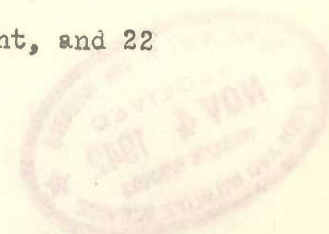
Water: Appears to be considerably higher than last year. A heavy growth of bullrush covers the entire lake.

Wildlife: Approximately 300 ducks were observed in flight, and 22 broods of young were seen. Pheasants appeared numerous.

Maintenance: Refuge markers were repaired.

PRETTY ROCK

Water: 1 foot below spill crest. Sago pondweed evident.



Notes: 1 foot region about clear. 2500 bones were collected.

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Wildlife: 600 adult mallards and pintails and 110 broods of young ducks were observed. There appeared to be an extensive concentration of shorebirds.

Maintenance: Fence, and refuge markers were repaired. Poison bait was placed in trays on the dam.

LAKE OLIVER

Water: 8" below spillway crest.

Wildlife: 700 ducks, 50 gulls, and 200 shorebirds were observed.

Maintenance: Put out poison bait on dam. Repaired refuge markers.

CHERRY CREEK & TOBACCO GARDEN

The refuge markers and posts were removed from these projects, dams have been washed out.

No photographs were taken during the period covered by this report.

The information for this report supplied by Chesley M. Dinkins August 31, 1942.

October 30, 1942

Melvin H. McKenzie
Melvin H. McKenzie
Assistant Refuge Manager

Approved:

Burnie Maurek
Regional Director

11/2/42
Date



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No photographs were taken during the period covered by this report.

The information for this report supplied by Chesley M. Jenkins
August 31, 1942.

October 30, 1942

Malvin H. McKenzie
Assistant Refuge Manager

Approved:

James M. ...
Regional Director
Date *11/10/42*



Lake Ilo.

February - April
1942

I. General.

A. Weather Conditions: The following summary is taken from the records of a local weather bureau station:

	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Max.Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp</u>
February	.65	54	-23
March	.65	61	-7
April	2.04	88	8
Total	3.36	Extremes 88	-23

B. Water Conditions: The water level of Lake Ilo on February 1 was five inches below the spillway crest. By March 14 it had risen until two inches of water was going over. The maximum height was eight inches above spillway crest on April 2. About a half inch flow is still going over the spillway.

II. Wildlife.

A. Waterbirds: Approximately 2,000 mallards wintered on the refuge. Most of these left about March 14. Pintails and mallards were first observed on March 20. 26 Canada Geese observed on April 1 stayed on the lake several days. On April 6 about 60 White-fronted Geese were observed and stayed on the lake for three days. From April 9 to 19th about 350 Snow Geese were on the area. At the present time there are about 7,000 ducks on the refuge. The spring migration is believed to have been the heaviest for many years.

B. Upland Game: It is estimated that there are at least 150 pheasant, 60 partridge, and 25 sharp-tailed grouse resident on the area. It has been found necessary to operate feeding stations as the natural food of these birds is not very plentiful in this vicinity.

C. Fur-bearers, Predators:

Muskrat: Very few observed. The small number on the

refuge last fall appears to be decidedly smaller this spring.

Mink: No mink other than the three reported in the previous quarter have been taken this season. It is reported that 8 mink were taken by local trappers in the vicinity of the refuge.

Skunk: Seven skunk were caught during the past quarter making a total of 24 taken for the season.

Coyote: A few were observed but none were taken during the past season. It is reported that a Service trapper operating in Dunn County has succeeded in taking several of these animals in this vicinity.

III. Refuge Development and Maintenance.

All refuge development and maintenance work has been done by Mr. Dinkins, Laborer-Patrolman, on the Lake Ilo Refuge. Most of his time has been spent on the following projects. Constructing a stand for motor boat, repairing roads and trails, defacing old refuge markers. Cleaning up scrap iron around refuge and razing headquarters pump platform. Hauled plumbing fixtures from Des Lacs Refuge, relined brakes and repaired box on Ford truck, USDI-694, serviced and maintained equipment. Operated a trapline and a duck trap. Assisted in drilling the well at headquarters. This well is 161 feet deep and produces a good supply of relatively soft water. It was drilled very near the residence in order that the pump and motor could be located in a pit adjacent to the basement.

Bird Banding: The duck trap which was operated during January was also operated during February. Of a total of 166 new birds caught during this time, 79 were banded in January and in February 83 were banded with 4 retakes caught that had been banded in 1940.

Notes on Other Easement Refuges

Lake Patricia. 4-16-42.

Water: 3.5' below spillway and about 1' lower than last year.

Wildlife: Approximately 400 ducks, 40 cranes, 4 Hungarian Partridge, and 17 pheasants on refuge. Signs indicating presence of skunk and mink were observed.

Maintenance: Structures in good condition. Fence around dam repaired. Refuge markers repaired. No predators were taken though a trapping permit was issued.

Charles Lake. 4-17-42.

Water: A small stream still going over spillway.

Wildlife: A total of 25 widgeon, 9 scaup, 12 gadwall, 32 blue-winged teal, 4 mallard, 6 pintail, 11 pheasant, and 4 Hungarian partridge were observed.

Maintenance: Gopher poison was put out in the approved trays on the dam. Structure in good condition except for crack in wingwall. Refuge markers repaired.

Stewart Lake. 4-8-42.

Water: A small stream still flowing over spillway.

Wildlife: Approximately 5,000 pintail and mallards on refuge.

Maintenance: Structures in good condition.

White Lake. 4-8-42.

Water: A small stream still going over spillway. Level about 1.4' above last year.

Wildlife: 14 snow and 3 Canada geese, 500 pintail, 150 mallard, 17 scaup, 2 Am. mergansers, 2 killdeer, and 2 gadwall were observed.

Maintenance: Structure in good condition except for a small

amount of wave erosion. A trapping permit was issued by our office but only one skunk was taken during the season.

Clearwater Lake. Not visited this period.

(Lake Susie.) 4-13-42. *McLean*

Water: Small stream going over spillway. Levels about the same as last year.

Wildlife: Approximately 200 mallards, pintails, shovellers, and scaup with a few gulls. Muskrat sign observed near dam.

Maintenance: Structures in good condition. Gopher poison was put out on dam.

Legion Lake. 4-13-42.

Water: Some water still flowing over spillway.

Wildlife: 11 Am. mergansers, 150 scaup, and about 500 pintails and mallards were observed.

Maintenance: Structure in good condition. A trapping permit was issued and 2 skunk, 6 weasel, 2 mink, and 1 badger were taken.

Hiddenwood Lake. 4-13-42.

Water: Appears to be considerably higher than last year.

Wildlife: About 600 mallards and pintails and 20 pheasants were observed.

Lake Zahl. 4-23-42.

Water: Unit north of R.R. track in excellent condition. Unit south of railroad had only a small amount of water.

Wildlife: A total of about 2,000 pintails, mallards; widgeon, gadwall, blue and green-winged teal, shovellers, redheads, canvasbacks with about 600 coots were observed. Muskrats quite numerous in unit north of track.

Maintenance: Gopher poison was put out on dam. Refuge markers

repaired. Structures in good condition. A trapping permit was issued and 7 skunk and 6 weasel were taken.

Shell Lake. Not visited during this period.

Pretty Rock Lake. 4-17-42.

Water: About 18 inches below spillway. This is about 8 inches lower than last year.

Wildlife: At this time 6 pheasants, 6 partridge, 7 goldeneye, 150 blue-winged teal, 600 pintail, 200 mallards, 90 shovellers, 47 Am. mergansers, 11 coots, and 5 canvasback were observed.

Maintenance: Structures in good condition. Fence around dam was repaired. Refuge markers repaired.

Lake Ilo Pictures



Water flowing over Lake Ilo spillway
during spring runoff. LI-42-4-1.



Ducks banded in trap below Lake Ilo
dam. LI-42-4-2.



Charles Lake. Bulrush planted
in 1938. LI-42-4-3.



Charles Lake. Willow cuttings planted
along shore in 1938. LI-42-4-4.